

1B SONG We Work the Black Seam 1 18))) MP3

- a Read the song lyrics. Can you guess the missing words?
They all rhyme with the **bold** word at the end of the previous line.

We Work the Black Seam



This place has changed for **good**
Your economic theory said it ¹ *would* _____
It's hard for us to understand
We can't give up our jobs the way we should
Our blood has **stained** the **coal**
We tunnelled deep inside the nation's ² _____
We matter more than pounds and **pence**
Your economic theory makes no ³ _____

Chorus

One day in a nuclear **age**
They may understand our ⁴ _____
They build machines that they can't **control**
And **bury** the waste in a great big ⁵ _____
Power was to become cheap and **clean**
Grimy faces were never ⁶ _____
But **deadly** for twelve thousand years is carbon
fourteen
We work the black seam together
We work the black seam together

The **seam** lies **underground**
Three million years of pressure packed it ⁷ _____
We walk through ancient forest **lands**
And light a thousand cities with our ⁸ _____
Your dark satanic **mills**
Have made redundant all our mining ⁹ _____
You can't exchange a six-inch band
For all the poisoned streams in Cumberland

Chorus

And should the children **weep**
The turning world will sing their souls to ¹⁰ _____
When you have sunk without a **trace**
The universe will **suck** me into ¹¹ _____

Chorus

- b Look at the **highlighted** words a–h in the song.
Match them to the definitions 1–8.

- | | |
|----------|--|
| a stain | 1 covered with dirt |
| b bury | 2 cry, usually because you are sad |
| c grimy | 3 hide sth in the ground |
| d deadly | 4 thin layer of coal between layers of rock underground |
| e a seam | 5 leave a mark that is difficult to remove |
| f mill | 6 causing or likely to cause death |
| g weep | 7 pull sb / sth with great force in a particular direction |
| h suck | 8 a factory that produces a particular type of material |

SONG FACTS

We Work the Black Seam features on Sting's 1985 album *The Dream of the Blue Turtles* which reached number 3 in the UK album charts. Sting wrote this song at the time of the 1984 miners' strike. It's about his sympathy for the miners facing the demise of the coal mining industry and his concern about a nuclear-powered future.